NOVA SCOTIA
CHIROPRACTIC AND
NATUROPATHIC
REGULATOR

SP-R005
Standard of Practice: Indirect Patient Care Licensure
Approved Date: effective May 27, 2026
Amended: n/a
Next Review Date: 2029

Note to Readers: ***In the event of any inconsistency between this document and the legislation that governs chiropractic and naturopathic practice in Nova Scotia, the legislation prevails.***

1. INTRODUCTION

The Nova Scotia Chiropractic and Naturopathic Regulator **(NSCNR)** is the regulatory authority for the practice of chiropractic and naturopathy in the Province of Nova Scotia.

The NSCNR serves and protects the public interest to advance ethical and competent chiropractic and naturopathic care in Nova Scotia.

2. APPLICATION AND ADMINISTRATION

This Standard of Practice shall apply to all chiropractors and naturopathic doctors registered with the NSCNR who are issued an **Indirect Patient Care Chiropractor Licence** or an **Indirect Patient Care Naturopath Licence** by the NSCNR.

The administration and application of this Standard of Practice shall be the responsibility of the Registrar of the NSCNR. Should the NSCNR become aware of any alleged breach or noncompliance with this Standard of Practice, it may take any action it considers appropriate, including but not limited to:

a) contacting a registrant to request the immediate remedy of any suspected breach or non-compliance;

b) referral of the matter for consideration by an additional registration and licensing decision maker; and

c) filing a formal complaint under the *Regulated Health Professions Act* regarding the suspected breach or non-compliance.

3. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this Standard of Practice are to uphold public interest and safety by establishing minimum standards for Indirect Patient Care Licences.

4. DEFINITIONS

In this Standard of Practice:

"Board" has the same meaning as defined in the Chiropractic and Naturopathic Regulations;

"Direct Patient Care" means the practice of chiropractic or naturopathy, as applicable, that involves the provision of care to individual patients;

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"Indirect Patient Care" means the practice of chiropractic or naturopathy, as applicable, that does not involve the provision of care to individual patients;

"Indirect Patient Care Chiropractor Licence" is a practicing chiropractic licence issued by the NSCNR to an applicant who meets the requirements set out in this Standard of Practice;

"Indirect Patient Care Naturopath Licence" is a practicing naturopath licence issued by the NSCNR to an applicant who meets the requirements set out in this Standard of Practice;

An Indirect Patient Care Chiropractor Licence and an Indirect Patient Care Naturopath Licence are collectively referred to in this Standard of Practice as **"Indirect Patient Care Licences"**;

A person holding an Indirect Patient Care Chiropractor Licence and a person holding an Indirect Patient Care Naturopath Licence are collectively referred to in this Standard of Practice as "**Indirect Patient Care Licensees"**;

"registration and licensing decision maker" has the same meaning as defined in the Chiropractic and Naturopathic Regulations;

"reserved practice" has the same meaning as defined in the Chiropractic and Naturopathic Regulations; and

"Reserved Practice Permit" means a permit issued by the Registrar of the NSCNR authorizing a registrant to perform specified restricted activities or reserved practices upon successful completion of Board approved training and competency requirements.

5. INDIRECT PATIENT CARE PRACTISING LICENCES

a) An Indirect Patient Care Chiropractor Licence is issued by the registration and licensing decision maker only to applicants who meet the requirements set out in this Standard of Practice.

b) An Indirect Patient Care Naturopath Licence is issued by the registration and licensing decision maker only to applicants who meet the requirements set out in this Standard of Practice.

c) Indirect Patient Care Licences are renewable on an annual basis.

d) Indirect Patient Care Licences are issued by the registration and licensing decision maker to applicants who have satisfied the registration and licensing decision maker that they are not providing Direct Patient Care and, in addition, are:

i. registered and licensed to practice Direct Patient Care, or are eligible to be licensed to practice Direct Patient Care, but are choosing to change their license category to Indirect Patient Care; or

ii. eligible to be registered and licensed to provide Direct Patient Care except that they are no longer able to meet the NSCNR licensing requirements related to practice review or required practice hours.

e) Indirect Patient Care Licensees may apply for and be granted a change of licence to a Direct Patient Care licence by the registration and licensing decision maker upon completion of the following:

i. be in good standing with the NSCNR;

ii. submission of the prescribed application form;

iii. provide detailed evidence of continuing education completed since last holding a Direct Patient Care licence;

iv. participate in a competency assessment, as required by the registration and licensing decision maker;

v. comply with any additional training or educational bridging requirements identified by the registration and licensing decision maker to address competency deficiencies; and

vi. fulfill any preceptor, structured practice experience or supervised practice requirements determined by the registration and licensing decision maker.

6. STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

a) Indirect Patient Care Licensees are restricted to practising Indirect Patient Care. For clarity, Indirect Patient Care Licensees and are not permitted to provide Direct Patient Care.

b) Indirect Patient Care Licensees are not eligible for a Reserved Practice Permit. For clarity, a person who holds an Indirect Patient Care Chiropractic Licence or an Indirect Patient Care Naturopath Licence is not permitted to conduct any activity, procedure or service that is a reserved practice.

c) Indirect Patient Care Licensees must:

i. maintain current professional liability coverage or malpractice protection at all times as required by applicable NSCNR Standards of Practice;

ii. maintain Emergency First Aid as required by applicable NSCNR Standards of Practice;

iii. maintain continuing education as required by applicable NSCNR Standards of Practice;

iv. comply with criteria related to the practice review process which applies to the individual licensee's circumstance; and

v. comply with all other NSCNR Standards of Practice and licensing requirements for practising registrants unless specifically exempted in this Standard of Practice.

7. EXEMPTIONS

a) Indirect Patient Care Licensees may be exempt from selected practice review processes where those requirements, inspections or assessments, in the sole opinion of the Practice Review Committee, are not applicable to the individual's practice situation.

b) Indirect Patient Care Licensees are exempt from requirements related to practice hours in the NSCNR Bylaws.

8. RESTRICTIONS

Indirect Patient Care Licensees are not eligible for a Reserved Practice Permit.

9. LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

Regulated Health Professions Act (2023)
Regulated Health Professions General Regulations
Regulations Respecting Chiropractic and Naturopathy
Nova Scotia Chiropractic and Naturopathic Regulator Bylaws

10. ADDITIONAL RELEVANT STANDARDS OF PRACTICE:

All NSCNR Standards of Practice apply to a person holding an Indirect Patient Care Chiropractic Licence or Indirect Patient Care Naturopath Licence, including but not limited to:

a) Professional Liability Insurance
b) Emergency First Aid
c) Continued Education
d) Professional Communications